

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

It is gratefully acknowledged the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact the Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 5, 2005. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 has been received from the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103

Amended independent claim 1 includes a combination of features and is directed to a fluid application device including an application nozzle having a discharge opening directed to face an object that relatively travels with respect to the application device. The application nozzle discharges liquid fluid from the discharge opening and applies the fluid to the object. Further, the application nozzle includes a main body having a tip end with the discharge opening,

a passage defined inside the main body and tapered toward the discharge opening, and a valve needle arranged in the main body, for opening and closing the discharge opening. The valve needle has a stepped shape of which the diameter decreases in stages toward the discharge opening and which corresponds in position to the passage. Independent claim 9 includes similar features in a varying scope. These features are supported in the specification at least by Figure 4 and page 18, lines 18-31.

The Office Action rejects the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over a variety of references including Schorr et al., Abrahams, Bukler, Lockwood, Gutzka, JP 11-197572 and Abrahams. The Office Action particularly relies on Abrahams as teaching an application nozzle (see item 6 at page 5 of the Office Action). However, as shown in Figure 1 of Abrahams, the passage defined inside the main body is not tapered towards the discharge opening. Further, column 4, lines 24-26 merely indicate that the ball batch spring arrangement may be substituted for a needle valve. However, Abrahams does not teach or suggest the needle valve having a step shape of which the diameter decreases in stages towards the discharge opening and which corresponds in position to the passage. The other references also do not teach or suggest these features.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1 and 9 and each of claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Further, new claims 12-20 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope, and Applicants respectfully submit the new claims are supported by the originally-filed application. In particular, independent claim 12 is directed to a combination of features including an application nozzle of a fluid application device

having a curved corner face formed along the circumference of the discharge opening and curving from an inner wall of the discharge hole towards an outside of the main body. These features are illustrated in the non-limiting example of Figure 4, for example, which illustrates the curved corner face 58 formed along a circumference of the discharge opening 52 and curving from an inner wall of the discharge hole 56 towards an outside of of the main body.

The Office Action relies on Abrahams as teaching a corner face in cites Figures 1-4 and element 40. However, as shown in these figures, the corner face is not a curved surface as claimed by the present invention. The other references also do not teach or suggest these features.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claim 12 and each of the claims dependent therefrom are also allowable.

Further, the specification has been amended to change the header at page 3 to "Summary of the Invention" and to remove the reference marks included at the last page 21.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

If the Examiner has any questions with regard to this application, he/she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned so that an interview can be arranged in connection with this application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

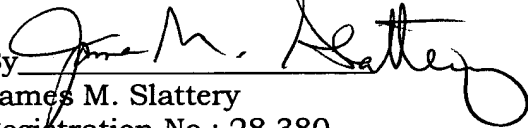
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

A prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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